



VOLUME 1

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### A HAPPY NEW YEAR

That's what we are saying to one another these days, and we mean it most sincerely. And yet, while we are expressing this familiar greeting, there is a hollow sound in our voices. We have a feeling that this wish will most likely not be realized, and that so far as temporal things are concerned this New Year does not appear to hold any bright promise of becoming particularly happy. The easy optimism concerning an early conclusion of the war, which above all else blights and mars all human happiness, has vanished. We are now facing the grim prospect of another year of war, perhaps on all the major battlefronts of the world. This year the supreme test will come, and we have every hope that it will be a year of decisive victories. Not only will the strength, courage and skill of our armed forces be put to a supreme test, but also the patience and faith of those of us who stay at home. As the past years have been years of ceaseless anxiety, and in many instances of great sorrow, so the new year promises only tears and tribulations, prior to the final achievement of victory. During this new year we will therefore need greater courage than ever before. But no matter what the future may have in store for us, we must not give way to pessimism, or despair, nor lose sight of our Christian duties, aims and objectives.

As individuals we can not do much about the world situation. But in spite of all the travesties of justice, all the cruelties and inhumanities incident to this war which has been thrust upon us, we must not forget that a new year of grace has dawned. A new "Land of Beginning Again" looms at the horizon. This should be to us all a challenge to further effort, and dedication to duty in our several callings. To those who walk into the new year confident of His presence who "changeth not", and of His benediction in good and evil days, this year may still be happy, and bearer of untold blessings.

### A PRAYER FOR OUR SONS IN THE SERVICES

O Lord of Life, Strength of the strong, and best Guide of our youth, hear the petitions we direct to Thy Throne of Grace. The anguish of strong fatherhood, and the tears of sacrificing motherhood, prompt our prayers for the lads of our land, the sons of our congregations. They have left or are leaving our homes and altars to heed their country's call. They are shouldering arms, flying planes, and manning ships in defense of our freedom, and our institutions.

Here in the friendly pew and at the family altar we follow them in dusty march, airy flight, and on stormy sea with our petition for safety. May their remoteness from sanctuary and home not lessen their grip on the virtues of a royal manhood. Defend them, O Lover of Youth from the sinister, soul destroying sins whose lures lead only to dark disgrace and dishonor. These are our sons, sons-in-law, our brothers, our husbands, Thy choice gift to us, and our heart's desire is that they may serve our country's cause unsullied and unstained.

Above all, dear Lord, guide them by Thy Holy Spirit that they may keep sacred in the crowded routine of each day, some fraction of time for a prayer tryst with Thee. Remind them of their baptismal covenant and confirmation convictions that they may be true soldiers of the Cross. Be their shield and defender, and bring them back sound in body and mind from the great tribulation. And our hearts' plea, O Father of all the nations of the earth, is that just and enduring peace may soon come to supplant the sword, hate giving way to love and brutality to brotherhood.

In the name of our elder Brother, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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*The New Year lies before you,  
Like a spotless track of snow;  
Be careful how you tread it,  
For every mark will show.*

**AN ADDRESS BY VICTOR JONASSON,  
member Board of Trustees, First  
Lutheran Church, delivered at  
the Home-Coming Rally, Nov. 19,  
1944.**

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Members of the Congregation, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

The committee in charge of the arrangements for this evening thought that it would be desirable to ask a member of the Board of Trustees or Deacons to address this meeting briefly, to tell you something of the progress which has been made during this year, and to bring to your attention some of the problems which confront us this coming church year.

This has been an outstanding year in the history of our church and congregation. One major objective has been achieved. The mortgage has been paid in full and our church is now free of debt. This great achievement was made possible by the generosity of the congregation and our many friends and ex-members, many of whom reside in cities across the Dominion.

Another important development which I wish to mention is that the heating system has been in a bad state of repair and our fuel costs these past years have been increasing year by year. After carefully considering this question from all angles your board has decided to have a stoker installed and to have the heating system completely remodelled. When the installation is completed it will be possible for us to heat the upper or lower auditoriums either separately or together, thereby saving considerable fuel which would otherwise be wasted to heat unused space. The new system has been designed to achieve the maximum comfort and efficiency at the lowest possible operating cost per heating season. While these installations involve a considerable sum of money we feel sure that the congregation will agree that this decision was a wise and timely one.

Our church music has also received special attention. We have two splendid choirs under the capable leadership of our organist and choirmistress Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson, who has received very able assistance from our good friend P. Bardal. It was felt that a soloist would be a great asset to the choirs. We therefore contacted and were successful in obtaining the services of Mrs. Lincoln Johnson, whose outstanding ability is known to us all.

While this is not a progress report we feel that these matters should be brought to the attention of the congregation in order that the membership at large may know and appreciate that your boards of management have a keen

sense of responsibility and are anxious and eager to promote the welfare of our church and congregation in all things.

At a recent meeting of the joint Boards of Trustees and Deacons the important question of church attendance was discussed at some considerable length. It was accordingly decided to bring this vital problem to the attention of the congregation in the hope that you, the members, would lend your co-operation and support towards reaching a solution of this problem.

A significant contrast is to be found in comparing the average attendance of Sunday School with that of our church services. The Sunday School can boast of an average attendance of 250 pupils per Sunday, whereas our attendance at church services is far below that figure. The obvious conclusion from this comparison is that we, the parents, are most anxious that our children receive Christian instruction and education, but we, the mothers and fathers who should set an example in all things, fail in this most important duty. We do not attend church regularly!

Church attendance is largely a matter of habit. We can develop the habit of regular church attendance and derive benefit and blessing therefrom or we can take the other road: the road of indifference, which pays no dividends and often leads the individuals into the desert of doubt.

We cannot and must not allow ourselves to become victims of indifference at a time when men are giving their very lives to protect our freedom of which "Freedom of Worship" is a vital and inseparable part.

We of The First Lutheran have a church organization of which we may be truly proud; a church which for more than half a century has brought faith and blessing into the hearts and lives of countless hundreds of people who have worshipped here. Our church has been the spiritual home of our Icelandic Canadian Community and has been a source of inspiration and strength today as in the pioneer era. Its contribution to our development as a people cannot be determined other than to say that its influence has been profound and far reaching.

The names of two great men are inseparably connected with this fifty-year era. The late Rev. Dr. Jon Bjarnason and the late Rev. Dr. B. B. Jonsson. Their memory will always be mentioned with reverent thanks for their service and Christian devotion in the interest of our people and congregation.

An inspiring sermon can and should attract people to church. Those who attend our services regularly will agree that our pastor, Rev.

Eylands preaches an excellent sermon. His material is carefully chosen and his sermons bear evidence of careful and painstaking preparation and contain a wealth of religious and moral thought.

In making this statement I feel that I am only paying a deserved tribute to Rev. Eylands for his excellent work on behalf of this congregation.

Our Lutheran services do not lend themselves to sensationalism or to the dramatic, but are designed to afford the individual an opportunity to worship God with reverence and dignity. Our services have all the qualities which should appeal to the average individual making church attendance not a mere formality but a living communion with God.

These several points which I have brought to your attention are well known and fully appreciated by a large portion of our membership and yet comparatively few of the total congregation avail themselves of the great privilege which is ours to enjoy and experience by participating in the Christian fellowship which our church offers.

Your pastor, the choirs and the organizations within the church are unceasing in their efforts to serve you, and to make this house of God a church-home in the full sense of the word.

We are confident that everyone who is here tonight is willing to do his or her part in building up the church attendance. We are therefore going to ask you to consider yourselves a large attendance committee which will devote time and effort towards this great and good work. The results we all desire can be achieved if you yourselves attend church next Sunday and every succeeding Sunday.

Speak to your families and friends and urge them to come. Point out the many blessings which are ours to enjoy. We are confident that with your co-operation and support this effort can be made a great success. Our objective is to fill the church each and every Sunday.

In that way we can show our appreciation to our pastor and choirs and to all who help to make our services both interesting and beautiful. A full attendance will be an inspiration and a challenge to accomplish still greater things for our church in the future.



Rev. B. Theodore Sigurdson is now serving our congregation at Lundar. He moved there from Wynyard, Sask.



President Sigmår of Mountain, N.D., has tendered his resignation to his Dakota Parish in order to accept a call from the newly established congregation in Vancouver, B.C.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRST LUTHERAN Y.P. SOCIETY

By Eileen Johnson

Ladies and Gentlemen:—

This report dates back to December 1st, 1943.

On December 29th last, we had a concert, the proceeds of \$50 and \$10 in the treasury given to the Church making a total of \$60. Five dollars was donated to Christmas decorations. On February 18th, a special effort yielded twelve dollars. This was all the money that was raised after December 1st. At the end of the year we had a balance of \$19.00 in the treasury, the entire amount handed to the President of the Congregation the evening of the Burning of the Mortgage.

At this point I would like to say that Wilfred Baldwin, our past President was a good leader, and his efforts are appreciated very much. He's a great worker, and certainly hasn't slackened in his efforts. He's still as active as ever in the Club.

This year we had our Tea on November 7th. The proceeds were \$30.40. Under miscellaneous expenditures which included cost of some of our refreshments we have \$6.15 which leaves a balance of \$24.25. We have started a ping-pong tournament, a fee of 5c per player charged, which adds 75c to make a grand total of exactly \$25.00.

Now, what are we doing, and what are our plans for the future. Those of you who have boys and girls coming to Young People's have no doubt heard of the West End Sahara Club. There are 7 Young People's Societies affiliated with this club, and also the "Hi Y" of the Y.M.C.A., the Churches being St. Matthews, St. Jude, Home Street, First Federated, St. Paul's, Epworth, and ourselves. What it is is another Teen Canteen or Youth Centre. I shouldn't say "another" canteen, for we have ambitions of setting a standard for the many others in our city, but we have just started and have yet to see what can be done. Two representatives from each Young People's group are included in the council and sponsors from each congregation asked to form a committee and attend our meetings. We also have four advisors:—Waverley Gant, Curate of St. Matthews Church, Charlie O'Neil of the Y.M.C.A., Ted Schrader of The Winnipeg Tribune, Miss Sutherland of the Y.W.C.A. and Ed. Kirby a graduate of law, so you can see we are under good guidance with many a helping hand. We now have a permit from the School Board to use General Wolfe School each Friday evening, but two weeks ago used the Y.M.C.A. until arrangements could be made to obtain a building of



## Our Parish Messenger

English Language Organ of the Icelandic  
Lutheran Synod.

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some sort in the West End. Last Saturday the "Y" was not available and our arrangements cancelled. Four hundred young people attended our opening night festivities. There were two dance floors, four game rooms, a lounge, and canteen where hot-dogs, doughnuts, and soft drinks were sold. Admission was 10 cents. Is this not the ideal thing for your children today, where they can go and meet their friends and have fun at a minimum of cost instead of playing on the streets and hanging around the corner drug store? Our age limit is 15 years and closing time 11.30.

To get back to the Young People's Club we are planning to have our annual concert in January. We don't know what the theme will be as yet, but hope you will support us as you have in the past.

There is also a staff elected for a paper in the form of a Year Book which we plan to put out in May. We know our editor Dick Beck will be a capable staff leader.

Last Sunday evening we invited the St. Matthews Y.P.S. down for a social evening. Dr. McLeod, assistant professor of Zoology at the University of Manitoba, was our speaker and showed us slides on his subject. Refreshments were served and a grand time had by all. Mr. McLeod paid us a very nice compliment. He said he thought that we were one of the most active Young People's Societies in the city. If that is to be our reputation it is something to be proud of, for it isn't easy to keep a Young People's group together in time of war, but we need your help, your interest. As groups you've been grand, but as individuals, do you think of us as just a group of kids who have been occupying the lower auditorium one night a week for the past few years, or of young people growing up, wanting to be part of their church? I know a lot of you have sons and daughters who are away, and consequently your interest has drifted away from the Young People. Can't one of us take the place of Tom or Mary? Naturally

our parents take interest in what we're doing, but we don't want our entertainments to be family socials. We want you, the congregation, to be proud of us, but it's so hard to whip up enthusiasm in young people when they don't think their elders appreciate their efforts. The next time you see one of our members, instead of merely saying "Hello, how are you?" will you show them that you ARE interested and ask them how their Young People's Club is coming along?

Thank you.



## THE CHURCH IN ACTION

By S. O. BJERRING

*(Continued from last "Messenger")*

On Sunday, Oct. 15th, we gathered for the morning service of worship in the convention church. The title of the pastor's sermon (the Rev. Chas. B. Foelsch) was "The Sound of the Grand Amen", the theme of his subject being taken from Cor. He very ably dealt with that topic and gave it a depth of meaning to me and I dare say to many others there up to that time not associated with the word. It was brought home to us how the Corinthians, listening to Paul's epistle being read to them, had at its conclusion answered in unison with a Grand Amen, by so doing expressing an oath of allegiance and loyalty and committing themselves to service in the name of Him that Paul was preaching to them.

How often we may have used that word without considering its implications and our responsibilities connected with it. Let us not be deterred, however, from using it in the knowledge of its fuller application, but rather in that knowledge meet a new day even with its greater responsibilities.

What now are the immediate matters for our consideration:—

As a synod, this is the 3rd biennial convention to which our synod has sent delegates, in actual period of time it represents 5 years and through that length of time we have by-passed the matter of our apportionment, by which I mean we have given no serious or constructive thought nor advanced any plan by which the amount of our apportionment should be raised or met. The truth of the matter is that we have been hesitant in putting the matter squarely before our congregations and to their membership. We have also been content to let the matter rest in the benevolent attitude of the U.L.C.A. towards us. Isn't it about time that we were facing the issue and giving it our earnest consideration?

It might be well to explain what the apportionment is, it no doubt being an unfamiliar term to most of you. It simply means that portion of the total U.L.C.A. budget allocated — entrusted, if you like—to our synod to raise and account for to the U.L.C.A. treasury. An example is this: The total U.L.C.A. budget last year was \$1,500,000. Our synod's proportion to account for was \$3,825, approximately 65 cents per confirmed member. What was the gross response to our responsibility? It was not in the nature or spirit of a "Grand Amen"—I am almost ashamed to mention it for it was only some 27% of the amount it should have been, and over the 5 years that we have been a member synod of the U.L.C.A. our contribution has been a much smaller percentage. Altogether a very poor showing and a disappearing performance compared to some member synods that make returns up to 250% of their apportionment.

To take the sting somewhat out of this showing it is to be remembered that our synod compensates in part for its lapse through the supervision of its private enterprise the Home for the Aged at Gimli—but let us also be reminded that the apportionments set are a minimum, not a maximum objective. Let us not forget either that our synod has been a beneficiary of the U.L.C.A. in the matter of its own Home Mission field to the extent of over \$23,000. That is a considerable amount of money, yet the treasurer of the U.L.C.A. remarked to me at a special meeting of synod treasurers in Mpls. that he considered both the U.L.C.A. and our synod had benefited through our co-operative labors. I viewed that as a very generous attitude in the light of what I knew to be the case and I am still inclined to consider the benefit as mainly in our favor.

If we are to remain members of the U.L.C.A. either as at present or through alignment with a Canadian Division, which as already expressed I consider necessary to our own existence, we shall want, I'm sure, to measure up to our responsibilities, so the sooner we recognize what the responsibilities are in a monetary way and make provisions accordingly, the sooner we will acquire a more substantial stake and voice in the active affairs of the church in its larger program and world outlook.

Our apportionment for the coming years on the basis of the new \$2,500,000 budget is set at \$4,959 for 1945 and \$4,791 for 1946, which might seem like formidable figures, yet when broken down to per capita of confirmed membership of our congregations it is only a matter of about 80 cents per person per year or six and a half cents per month.

Let us ask ourselves if this imposes any great hardship on us, though some would not be in circumstances to contribute anything so that others would have to increase their share of the responsibility, even up to ten fold.

It is also to be borne in mind that this apportionment (or "income objective", as it has been referred to) takes care of the Whole Program of the U.L.C.A. (exclusive of Lutheran World Action), covering Missions and all Benevolences including ALL OUR OWN MISSION FIELD NEEDS . . . and these, it may be pointed out can easily exceed any amount our synod may account for to the U.L.C.A.

That our synod can make a much better showing in the matter of apportionment than it has been doing there is no doubt and that it needs to do so has already been pointed out by our president, Rev. Dr. Sigmar, in an issue of the Messenger just following the convention and it would seem to be only a matter of adopting a method of procedure.

May I suggest that one way of getting started on a systematic basis would be, say for the larger congregations to budget for or to adopt a quota for themselves that they make their "Income Objective" towards the synod's apportionment. The rural parishes can set themselves a quota based on the total of their membership.

The matter of gathering in this apportionment fund, if not looked after by the church or parish boards, might be delegated to the Missionary societies or the Ladies' Aids as the case may be, both organizations in the past having been accustomed to sending in contributions for synodical mission purposes to the treasurer.

It has never been the policy of our synod or its executive to introduce or impose any arbitrary system in connection with its financing, but I am sure that helpful suggestions from that source should be appreciated, the matter of finances being the important factor it is in the operations of the Church in Action.

It would be difficult to suggest any simpler or more effective method of providing for the support of the church's work than that recommended by St. Paul to the Corinthians when he directs them in the fashion so familiarly known, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him".

There can be no "up-to-date" improvement made on this method and if we earnestly adopt this way to "provide", whether for our local or synodical needs, I am sure when returns are made through established channels, they will prove correspondingly substantial.

Before closing I want to refer to the expansion program as contemplated and presented in the U.L.C.A. folder entitled "From Strength to Strength" I will allow myself to quote in abbreviated form but sufficiently to give you a fair idea of what the extra \$1,000,000 budget is intended for.

1st and heading the list is that of Parish education. The goal there is "1,000,000 pupils for the Sunday Schools" and in that connection seeking to improve literature, equipment and instruction needed by the Sunday Schools, working on the theory that every dollar expended on Sunday School effort returns to the local church. Would anyone question the worthwhileness of that program?

2nd—Social Missions. Establishing Social Agencies for posthostilities days. Preparing trained workers to council with staffs of child-caring agencies. Training counsellors to help people with their difficult mental adjustments which the years ahead will require.

3rd—American Missions, expansion of rural work, particularly among negroes, providing trailer chapels to serve migrant and tourist camps. A sum of \$200,000 to be appropriated for that important work.

4th—Deaconess work. The aim, "to recruit for training and placement an adequate Diaconate as a major project of our church". The need for deaconesses specially trained in religious education and social work is becoming increasingly felt, and, without at this time going into the details of that set-up it is estimated that \$60,000 will be needed to put that program into operation.

In that connection, the matter for a Canadian deaconess training centre was brought up in a joint meeting of the Canada Synod and our Synod's delegates.

5th—World Missions. The slogan there is, "We are in a world work and the United Lutheran Church in America knows where it is going in World Missions". The requirements to advance through Evangelistic, Educational, Medical and Industrial Missions will call for additional \$302,000 annually.

6th and 7th—Pensions and Relief; Christian Higher Education. Just to mention these two important matters that have the concern and study of the U.L.C.A., the first requiring an added annual grant of \$50,000 yearly. Christian Higher Education will need a matter of \$200,000 over a period of years, with extra financial expenditures for graduate training of prospective leaders and trained counsellors for returned service personnel at colleges.

What I have listed under the 7 foregoing headings I have abridged (as already men-

tioned) from the U.L.C.A. promotional folder entitled "From Strength to Strength".

In this attempt to combine some of my personal abbreviations and impressions of the 14th biennial convention of the U.L.C.A. along with its inseparable financial commitments and our obligations in that respect as one of its synodical units, I know this "report" has become somewhat lengthy, though still incomplete, with some of the convention highlights by-passed, but which I know will receive capable treatment by my more qualified colleagues.

If by this I have commended the U.L.C.A. to your confidence in its active evangelical and social ministry and have stirred your appreciation for its promotional expansion in its field of service, then something has been attained in our over-all co-operative endeavour.

At this convention we saw Dr. F. H. Knubel, the venerable president of the U.L.C.A. since its inception, replaced by a younger man to that office, his successor being Rev. Franklin Clark Fry, who shows every qualification for filling that honored office with becoming mastery. Dr. Knubel was at the same time honored by being made President Emeritus for life.

I cannot bring to your ears the silvery chimes of the church's grand organ playing in unison with its chords the hymn "When I survey the wondrous Cross", nor can I describe to you the gloriously beautiful singing of the St. Olaf's choir that greeted our ears and lifted our hearts that Sunday evening, the choir that drew from a renowned musical critic the tribute "The celestial Choir is no longer a figure of speech, for we have now heard it—yes, we have even seen it", but with this imperfect and incomplete resume of the 14th biennial convention of the United Lutheran Church in America I'll leave with you its key theme as our guide for further understanding and mutual fellowship—"Be Christian".

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## NOTES FROM YOUR SEATTLE PARISH

By Harald S. Sigmar

The Ladies' Aid recently contributed \$100.00 to our Parsonage fund. This splendid organization keeps active even under present difficulties such as the fact that a large number of the active members are now working in defence and other wartime emergencies. The officers are as follows: Mrs. S. B. Johnson, president; Mrs. Gutti Olason, vice-president; Mrs. Th. Palmason, treasurer; and Mrs. T. Anderson, secretary.

At the Annual Congregational meeting it was decided to cut the Pastor's Aid (from the



U.L.C.A.) another \$25.00. The congregation has in a year and a half cut the Mission Support that it received from \$100.00 a month to \$50 a month in addition to raising the pastor's salary the equivalent of \$35.00 a month by assuming this amount for rental allowance. This speaks not only of growth and progress but of the congregation's healthy desire to become self supporting as soon as possible.

Four new men were added to the Church Council at the annual meeting: Tani Bjornson, the choirmaster, Ben Hallgrimson, Ray Olason and Theodore Toskey. Ray Olason was elected to the newly formed office of Envelope Secretary (Financial). The other members of the Council include President Karl F. Frederick, Secretary S. B. Johnson, Treasurer J. A. Johannson, Vice-President T. Anderson, Herman Thordarson, Sig Sturlaugson and Bill Lawrence. Two men asked to be relieved of this office: K. S. Thordarson, who has served many years as the President of the Congregation, and George Goodman, who for a great length of time was the Secretary of the Church and Council.

Our congregation enjoyed a blessed holiday season with many special services and programs. December 10th the Church School presented its "Advent - Christmas - Epiphany" Pageant. There were over 300 present, including the children, at this splendid portrayal of the Great Event in song and pageantry. December 17th, The Icelandic Language Christmas Service, with a Social Hour and Christmas Party following. Special Yuletide refreshments were served by the Women's Committee (formerly known as the Deaconesses). December 20th the Girl Chorus, under the direction of Nina (Anderson) McCauley, presented an excellent Christmas concert to a large and appreciative audience. December 24th, the Children's Choir, dressed in white Cottas (numbering over 60) sang at our children's Christmas Service. December 25th, the congregation celebrated Christmas with its chief service which was led by the Senior Choir. The choir, under the direction of Tani Bjornson, sang the magnificent Christmas anthem "The Coming of the King", and also responded in song to the Christmas Story as it was read by one of the choir members, Ben T. Hallgrimson. December 31st we had our New Year's service. The night previous the Icelandic Litarary Society "Vestri" had its annual New Year's Eve program. Mrs. Jakobina Johnson, well-known poetess, spoke in the English language, Student Gunnar Bergman, of Iceland, spoke in the language of that land. Tani Bjornson sang three Icelandic solos, Kristin Jonsson played selections on her violin and Betty Toskey

played the flute. Jon Magnusson was the chairman of the program and Tani Bjornson led the group in Community singing. Lunch was served in the Social parlor of the Church following the program and all enjoyed an hour of visiting.

### VANCOUVER, B.C.

A friend in the coast city sent the "Messenger" a sample copy of a beautiful six-page folder, with a lithographed front cover picture, containing the order of Christmas services held in the Danish Lutheran Church for the Icelandic congregation there, and conducted by Pastor, Rev. Runolfur Marteinnsson. The folder also contains a Christmas greeting from the pastor, and an invitation and an appeal for church attendance and co-operation in the work of the Church. We quote the concluding sentence from the appeal, because of its application to all people in our congregation: "Call to mind that we are knit together by ties of blood, by common history, and by sacred relationship in the same church".

460 of these folders were mailed, apparently to people of Icelandic Lutheran extraction in Vancouver, with the result that 275 people attended the Christmas service. A group of about 30 children rendered a Christmas program also at that time. This is the first time in great many years that such a program has been witnessed by our Vancouver people under their own sponsorship. Handicapped by not having a Church of their own, the children practised in rented quarters downtown, under the leadership of Mrs. H. N. Sumarlidason, and others.

It is quite obvious that the church work among our people in Vancouver has been making a remarkable progress in recent years. This of course is due to many reasons: A group of competent and sincerely interested local leaders; a steady influx from the prairie provinces and other parts of people who have brought their religious convictions with them into the new surroundings; and no small amount of the credit must be given the veteran Rev. Marteinnsson and his faithful wife. They have manifested great energy and singular devotion in their commission to this field from the beginning. The labors of such humble and consecrated workers will always bear ultimate fruit, and their many friends will rejoice with them in their achievement.

This year Lent begins February 14th. April 1st is Easter Day, and Whitsunday, which is also Confirmation Day in many of our Churches, comes May 20th.

## THE JUNIORETTES

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This is the motto of the Juniores of the First Lutheran Church, the club for girls 10 years to 15 years.

It originated in the fall of 1943 under the supervision of Matthildur Bjarnason Sallows and Shirley Thordarson McCreedy. The idea of having another girls' club came from the girls themselves, who had been members of the Explorers Club led by Doris Blondal and Theodosia Olafson. When this club ceased to function the girls missed it so much that they approached a few of the young women of the church about starting another club—the result was the formation of the Juniores.

The question of a name was of primary importance, so a contest was held. Each girl was asked to submit one or more names which she considered suitable. The name Juniores, submitted by Claire Jonasson was deemed the best.

The meetings are held each Wednesday evening from 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. in the auditorium of the church.

The objectives of the club, as stated in our club book are as follows:

1. To stimulate interest in the church;
2. To encourage a co-operative spirit among the members;
3. To develop personal traits;
4. To develop good sportsmanship.

The executive of the club last year was as follows:

President, Elsie Brandson; Sec.-Treas., Audrey Bowley; Librarian, Margaret Stone.

The club activities during the 1943-44 season consisted of:

1. Red Cross Work—(ditty bags, hemming crib sheets and squares);
2. Physical training and games;
3. Music;
4. Dramatics;
5. Helping the needy at Christmas. Two hampers were given to the Board of Deacons who in turn gave them to needy families.

The wind-up was held in May. The Junior Ladies' Aid were the hostesses at an entertainment to which the girls invited their mothers. A short program was presented, also a demonstration of the year's work.

The Juniores, now in the second season, have increased in number and we are pleased to welcome Doris Blondal Johnson as a leader. The club has an enrolment of 28 and each meeting is presided over by the elected executive:

Audrey Bowley, Pres.; Linda Hallson, Vice-Pres.; Elsie Brandson, Sec.; Dorothy Stone, Treasurer.

The club is now divided into three age groups, 10-11, 12, and 13-15. There is a keen competitive spirit among the groups and a point system has been established to mark weekly improvements.

Discussion groups are held by the 'teen agers while the young ones participate in gymnastics and games.

Group activities as a whole consist of:

1. Red Cross Work—sewing and knitting.
2. Public Speaking.
3. Music.

After Christmas the 'teen agers plan to start a bowling club.

At the present time we are concentrating on a special project for Christmas, preparing hampers, and practicing for the Christmas Eve Concert.

The club is open for new membership and any girls who are interested are heartily invited to attend. All that is necessary is to come to a meeting where all will be done to make the new members welcome.

M.P.S.

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*Have you missed in your aim? Well,  
the mark is still shining.  
Did you faint in the race? Well, take  
breath for the next.  
Did the clouds drive you back? But  
see yonder their lining  
Were you tempted and fell? Let it  
serve for a text.  
As each year hurries by, let it join  
that procession  
Of skeleton shapes that march down  
to the past.  
While you take your place in the line  
of progression,  
With your eyes to the heavens, your  
face to the blast.*

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## REMEMBER:

A man who drinks now and then usually drinks more now than he did then.

Alcohol does not pick you up; it lets you down.

Alcoholism is a disease—not a "failing". The alcoholic is a sick man and should be treated as one.

Ignoring him, abusing him, or treating him with scorn, contempt or ridicule will neither cure him nor help him.